CLAIMS

1. An adjustable side rail, comprising:

a first elongate rail portion having a top edge and a bottom edge; and

a second elongate rail portion having spatially separated opposing upper and lower grooves, each groove slidingly receiving one of the top and bottom edges of the first elongate rail portion when the first elongate rail portion engages the second elongate rail portion; and

a tab projecting from one end of one of the first and second elongate rail portions, the tab having a side edge with a notch formed therein for catching an edge of a hole in a mounting rail into which the tab is inserted and for anchoring the one end of that elongate rail portion to the mounting rail while a length of the side rail is adjusted.

2. The adjustable side rail of claim 1, further comprising a flange at the one end of one of the first and second elongate rail portions for fastening that elongate rail portion to a mounting rail.

3. The adjustable side rail of claim 1, wherein each of the first and second elongate rail portions includes a plurality of vent openings in a side thereof.

4. The adjustable side rail of claim1, wherein the tab projects from the one end of the first rail portion.

5. The adjustable rail of claim 4, further comprising a second tab projecting from the one end of the first rail portion.

6. The adjustable side rail of claim 1, wherein the second rail portion has a lower edge and a shelf portion extending laterally from the lower edge for supporting a side of an equipment unit.

7. The adjustable side rail of claim 6, wherein the second rail portion has a rear edge and a forwarding-facing tab extending from the rear edge, the forward-facing tab limiting an extent of rearward placement of the equipment unit on the shelf portion.

8. The adjustable side rail of claim 1, wherein the grooves extend laterally from an outward facing surface of the second rail portion.

9. The adjustable side rail of claim 1, wherein the tab projects from the one end of the second rail portion.

10. The adjustable side rail of claim 1, wherein the first elongate rail portion includes an upper groove and a lower groove spatially separated from and opposing the upper groove, the grooves of the first elongate rail portion being configured to receive top and bottom rail guides of an equipment rail attached to a side of an equipment unit.

11. A method of installing a unit of equipment in a cabinet rack, the method comprising:

inserting a tab extending from one end of an adjustable side rail into a hole of a first mounting rail at one end of the cabinet rack;

positioning the tab within the hole such that an edge of the tab catches a surface adjacent to the hole to anchor the one end of the adjustable side rail to the first mounting rail by preventing the tab from being horizontally retracted from the hole; and

extending the adjustable side rail, anchored to the first mounting rail, to a second mounting rail at another end of the cabinet rack to adjust a length of the adjustable side rail to fit between the mounting rails.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising securing the adjustable side rail to the first and second mounting rails.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising repeating the steps of inserting, positioning, extending and securing for a second adjustable side rail.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising attaching an equipment rail to each side of an equipment unit to produce an equipment assembly and sliding the equipment assembly onto each secured adjustable side rail.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein each adjustable side rail has a bottom edge and a shelf portion extending laterally from the bottom edge, and further comprising placing an equipment unit onto the shelf portions.

16. The method of claim 13, further comprising sliding an equipment tray onto the adjustable side rails and placing an equipment unit on the equipment tray.

17. A cabinet rack system, comprising a pair of adjustable side rails, each adjustable side rail being coupled to a rear mounting rail and to a front mounting rail and having first elongate rail portion, a second elongate rail portion, and a tab projecting from a back end of one of the first and second elongate portions into a hole of the rear mounting rail, the first elongate rail portion having a top edge and a bottom edge, the second elongate rail portion having spatially separated opposing upper and lower grooves, each groove

slidably receiving one of the top and bottom edges of the first elongate rail portion, the tab having a side edge with a notch formed therein for catching an edge of the hole in the rear mounting rail into which the tab is inserted and anchoring the back end of that elongate rail portion with the tab to the rear mounting rail while a front end of the other elongate rail portion is coupled to the front mounting rail.

18. The cabinet rack of claim 17, further comprising an equipment assembly including an equipment unit and an equipment rail attached to each side of the equipment unit, each equipment rail being slidably coupled to one of the adjustable side rails when the equipment assembly is installed in the cabinet rack.

19. The cabinet rack of claim 17, wherein each adjustable side rail has a bottom edge and a shelf portion extending laterally from the bottom edge, and further comprising an equipment unit disposed on the shelf portions of the adjustable side rails.

20. The cabinet rack of claim 17, further comprising an equipment tray having integrated equipment rails, the integrated equipment rails being slidably coupled to the adjustable side rails when the equipment tray is installed in the cabinet rack.